

**DISASTER MITIGATION INITIATIVE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Allocations, Common Application, Waivers and Alternative Requirements for
Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Grantees
Further Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018
(Public Law 115-123)

Federal Register Docket No. FR-6109-N-02
Published Aug. 30, 2019
Line of Credit Established Sept. 17, 2020

LOUISIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 3 (SUBSTANTIAL) FOR
THE UTILIZATION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
MITIGATION FUNDS (CDBG-MIT)**

**Public Comment Period: August 9 – September 7, 2023
Submitted to HUD:
HUD Approved:**



John Bel Edwards, Governor

Billy Nungesser, Lieutenant Governor

Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration

A. SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This Action Plan Amendment No. 3 modifies the method of distribution for the Local and Regional Projects and Programs, and amends allocations to the Local and Regional Projects and Programs, State Projects and Programs, and the Non-Federal Cost Share Assistance Program.

This amendment is considered substantial because it includes a change in program benefit for the Local and Regional Projects and Programs.

Local and Regional Watershed Projects and Programs

The method of distribution as it relates to rounds of funding has been changed . The Local and Regional Projects and Programs budget is increased by \$15M to cover increased construction costs due to inflation.

State Projects and Programs

The State Projects and Programs allocation included \$15M for State Economic Development and Resilience. APA3 moves this \$15M into the State Projects and Programs – State Infrastructure and Housing allocation.

Non-Federal Cost Share Assistance

The Non-Federal Cost Share Assistance budget is decreased by \$15M. The Non-Federal Cost Share Assistance Program budget was increased by \$15M in APA1 to address local and state match requirements as they undertake mitigation projects as part of Hurricanes Laura and Delta (DR-4559 and DR-4570) recovery activities. Since that time, additional CDBG-DR appropriations were made to the State of Louisiana specific to hurricanes Laura and Delta. The funding necessary for the HMGP non-federal cost share assistance needed for these disasters has been allocated in the 2020 and 2021 Storms Master Action Plan and subsequent amendments. The funding is no longer needed from this grant.

B. TOTAL CDBG-MIT ALLOCATION

CDBG-MIT Program Budget				
	Previous Allocation	Change	Revised Allocation	Percent Change
Local and Regional Projects and Programs	\$ 570,666,243	\$ 15,000,000.00	\$ 585,666,243.00	2.6%
State Projects and Programs				
State Infrastructure and Housing	\$ 297,757,590	\$ 15,000,000.00	\$ 312,757,590.00	5.0%
State Economic Development and Resilience	\$ 15,000,000	\$ (15,000,000.00)	\$ -	
Non-Federal Cost Share Assistance	\$ 111,988,107	\$ (15,000,000.00)	\$ 96,988,107.00	-13.4%
Watershed Monitoring, Mapping, and Modeling	\$ 145,670,040		\$ 145,670,040	
Watershed Policy, Planning, and Local Capacity Assistance	\$ 24,278,340		\$ 24,278,340	
Administrative Costs	\$ 48,556,680		\$ 48,556,680	
Total Allocation	\$ 1,213,917,000	\$ -	\$ 1,213,917,000	0%

C. AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING PROGRAMS

1. Local and Regional Projects and Programs

Clarification – APA 1 included language that the Local and Regional Projects and Programs is amended to increase the awards from \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000. The Master Action Plan included language that the maximum award amount per project is \$10,000,000. The \$10,000,000 maximum award amount in the Master Action Plan is the State's intent.

The Local and Regional Projects and Programs as set forth in the Master Action Plan and amended in APA1 was to be awarded in three distinct rounds.

Round 3 as described in the Master Action Plan is being removed in this amendment. An increase to the funding level described in the Master Action Plan for rounds 1 and 2 are being increased to allow for up to 20% for cost increases due to inflation for all projects awarded. Additional funding for LMI projects due to inflation will be available for Round 1 and DSP projects previously awarded. Due to these anticipated increases, the maximum award amount for all projects in rounds 1 and 2 is being increased to \$20,000,000. See **Table 1** for funding levels.

Table 1. Local and Regional Watershed Projects and Programs Funding Rounds

Round	Funding Level
1	up to \$130,000,000
Round 2	
Design Support Program	up to \$130,000,000
Round 2	up to \$225,000,000

Region 9 Allocation

\$100,000,000 will be allocated to LWI Region 9 (identified in APA 2) from the Local and Regional Projects and Programs allocation. Region 9 includes all or a portion of the following parishes: East Feliciana, St. Helena, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Iberville, Ascension, and St. James. As identified in the Master Action Plan for the Great Floods of 2016, 67,835 of the total 91,628 (74%) households with damage from the August 2016 flood were in one of these parishes.

This allocation will allow for the implementation of identified projects with demonstrable and quantifiable mitigation outcomes in Region 9. It is anticipated projects identified may be large, transformative projects that could meet the definition of a covered project (requiring additional criteria) in Federal Register Docket No. FR-6109-N-02. In accordance with this notice, a covered project is defined as an infrastructure project having a total cost of \$100 million or more, with at least \$50 million of CDBG funds. Region 9 is encouraged and evaluated for these types of covered projects but not necessarily required.

Any project identified will be submitted by the region to the Office of Community Development and the OCD, in coordination with state agency staff representing the LWI Council agencies, will evaluate pre-applications for CDBG-MIT basic threshold eligibility, ensuring no disqualifying factors for the proposed project.

Eligible applications will be reviewed by the Region 9 Steering Committee (RSC).

Supported by the state agency project technical advisory group (TAG), the RSC will select a set number of projects to submit full project applications on behalf of its region for this funding opportunity. Disqualifying factors include, but are not limited to:

- Applicant is not an eligible entity
- Proposed project is not an eligible activity
- Proposed project does not mitigate flood risk
- Proposed project has potential to increase flooding in surrounding areas
- Proposed project does not demonstrate risk mitigation benefits for a MID area

Eligible project applicants will receive notification from the RSC and recommendations will be made to the Council of Watershed Management. The Council of Watershed Management will review and announce projects. The maximum award amount for this region 9 allocation is \$100 million.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Per the state's initial Action Plan, this Amendment is considered substantial as it includes a change in program benefit. The formal public comment period for the amendment begins. The 30-day public comment period starts Aug. 9 and ends at **5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023**. Citizens and organizations can comment on this amendment via:

- a. The OCD-DRU website, http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Action_Plans.aspx;
- b. Emailing them to ocd@la.gov;

- c. Mailing them to Office of Community Development, P.O. Box 94095, 70804-9095, Attn: Janice Lovett;
or
- d. Faxing them to the attention of Janice Lovett at (225) 219-9605.

The plan is available in Vietnamese and Spanish to reach the limited English proficiency citizens in the impacted areas. Citizens with disabilities or those who need other technical assistance can contact the OCD office for assistance via the methods listed above.